

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference, 7:00 pm  
**DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

Commissioners attending: Hans Van Dusen, Bob McMahon, Doug Ostrom, Abby Antonelis, Karen Gardner  
 Staff attending: Elaine Ott-Rocheford

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
<b>Call To Order</b>	Hans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.	
<b>8.25.20 Minutes; 8.22.20 – 9.4.20 Preliminary Vouchers; July Vouchers</b>	Bob: Motion to accept the 8.25.20 Minutes; 8.22.20 – 9.4.20 Preliminary Vouchers; and July Vouchers. Doug: Second Pass 5-0	<b>Motion to approve 8.25.20 Minutes; 8.22.20 – 9.4.20 Preliminary Vouchers; July Vouchers Pass 5-0</b>
<b>Point Robinson Hydrophone</b>	Elaine: Amy Carey is here to discuss how she has made progress on her end. We have made all the progress on our end in terms of acquiring Captain Joe’s support and reaching out to the other whale interest groups. We have a few issues to discuss that have come from that. Amy and I have discussed it. Amy is here to get approval to move forward, but the one key piece is the Coast Guard being completely nonresponsive to anything Pt Robinson related! I have reached out twice. Hopefully Captain Joe can help us with that. Amy: The biggest hurdle on our end has been getting the internet out to the lighthouse. It is cool that Comcast seems excited about it, knowing what it is for. We have all the permits in. The beach is actually owned by DNR, so that has been the brunt of things there, despite it being just a small line running out. The applications include DNR, King County, the Federal and State governments. We anticipate that to go smoothly due to the small size of the project and nothing that will cause any damage. What I wanted to come back to you on is to get Park District approval, although I understand it is contingent upon the Coast Guard. I don’t anticipate a problem, since it really is not construction. It is simply allowing us to have a small computer outside the lighthouse and the rest of the line would cross to DNR property. Bob: Perhaps we tell the Coast Guard, that unless otherwise directed, we are going ahead with this. Hans: That’s what I recommend, and we set a date. Abby: I have a question about the feedback we received from the Whale Trail people as concerned about the video attracting more vessel traffic.	

Amy: We have been doing this a long time, working on networks from Canada on down, using these tools to document and track, working with researchers. We have not seen in any areas an increase in boat traffic, in fact quite the opposite. We work on land based viewing, whether on the beach or at home or a classroom. It has never been an issue. On the flip side, when you have people on the beaches watching, they don't run home and grab their boats. It is the people out there already recreating. One benefit supporting the land based viewing is there is an army of people taking pictures and can capture any bad behavior from a boat already out there. Sometimes, we would let the Coast Guard know if whales are out there. We don't anticipate an issue with that, but if it happened, we would change things up.

Abby: My concern is that everyone has a computer in their pocket now. Have you documented it doesn't bring more boat traffic?

Amy: We have been citing networks for 20 years now, like the live time network on Facebook. There is a network of teams that have been doing this where we know messages are live at times. There hasn't been a change in boat traffic since before Facebook. We see an increase in shore based watching. There is a mindfulness about this. Lime Kiln is an example in the San Juans and the Central Whale research has a camera above ground. It doesn't bring people in boats.

Doug: What are people going to see? Will they see the park?

Amy: There are a couple things we are working on with the camera. We would like an underwater one at some point. There is one in the Johnston Strait off Vancouver Island. It is cool even if whales are not there. You see fish, harbor seals. The cameras above are just looking out at the water.

Abby: Since we partner with the Nature Center, have you been in contact with them?

Amy: They are really excited. The beauty of having something like this, it is all open source. It gives them the opportunity to link in.

Elaine: Will the public access to the data stream be free or subscription fee based?

Amy: No fee. Free.

Elaine: And on the camera maintenance side, what is your plan for funding?

Amy: There isn't a high level of maintenance. Sometimes a diver has to go in. There is nothing unique about that. We have access to folks who do that.

Elaine: And the plan is for you to fund that?

Abby: Except the electricity cost?

Elaine: The Keepers will fund that.

Amy: There is a cool benefit to the Park, too, because it becomes a Comcast hot spot. In COVID, people can work at the beach.

Bob: What do we need to do?

Elaine: You need to make a motion to move forward with approving the project subject to Coast Guard approval.

Amy: I would add that we would bring back a Use Agreement, as well, so you would need to approve that.

Elaine: Also, it would be subject to an MOU for both sides agreeing to the terms.

**Bob: I move we approve the hydrophone project subject to the caveats of Coast Guard approval (based on our stated review period, so lack of disapproval), Use Agreement, and MOU.**

**Abby: Second.**

**Motion to approve the hydrophone project subject to the caveats of Coast Guard approval (based on our stated review period, so lack of**

	<p>Hans: We'll vote on this at our next meeting.</p> <p>Amy: We will keep working on getting things put into place. Our goal is to have this in by October 15.</p> <p>Hans: It's a great project and an exciting opportunity for the community.</p>	<p><b>disapproval), use agreement, and MOU.</b></p>
<p><b>Airport Land</b></p>	<p>Elaine: Per Tom Dean's suggestion in my notification to him about all this, I reached out to RCO to find out if the Airport was even an eligible sponsor for the properties. They initially stated that they are not eligible, and at that, the purpose for which the deed of right encumbered land would be transferred as described would not be an eligible use and would create a conversion. To remedy a conversion, the property must be replaced with new property of equal utility and market value.</p> <p>I called RCO to further discuss the "ineligible sponsor" piece. They said it needed to be a "special purpose district who provides services for less than the entire state". We agreed they should be eligible. She is going to run it up the flag pole and get back to me. It may be they will not be eligible due to them not being an agency with a support function for habitat, outdoor recreation, and salmon habitat resources, which was the purpose for the grant.</p> <p>I also stated that I do not believe that this would be a conversion, because the use isn't changing. She will review that, as well. I sent her the Conservation Easement.</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: Tom Dean has stated the Airport District should be paying only 10% of the value for conserved properties. King County's 2020 assessed value for combined properties was \$490,100. We would likely have to use that to purchase like property, but RCO will check that, as well.</p> <p>The Airport District says that we are pretty sure of a loan of \$50K through airport improvement funds. If that happens, it would be a savings of over almost \$16K. So, we would be more than happy to pay VPD \$50K for the purchase of the parcels.</p> <p>The other thing Tom Dean and I discussed was that the RCO might require replacement of the funded property. If so, if we can put in \$50K and buy another parcel along Shinglemill Creek, then that would be a win-win for everybody. Tom said the reason would be to reduce the amount of drainage out-flow. The 60-acres next to us drains onto our property, and then our 20-acres drains into Shinglemill.</p> <p>Elaine: If it's not a requirement of RCO, you would still pay the \$50K anyway?</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: Absolutely.</p> <p>Abby: Does Tom Dean have a parcel in mind?</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: No.</p> <p>Elaine: I asked the same thing, and that's all to be determined.</p> <p>Doug: Does the Land Trust have the right of first refusal?</p> <p>Elaine: My sense is that they're not interested in buying it, but I will confirm that.</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: It's not official, but Tom Dean told me they're not.</p> <p>Hans: Have you interacted with surface water on this proposal?</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: Yes. If we buy both properties, it will reduce our maintenance.</p> <p>Hans: The road in between doesn't pose a problem?</p> <p>Kate (Airport District): I talked to the assessor's office, and they told me that the properties could be combined into a single parcel.</p> <p>Truman O'Brien: The deadline for loan application is October 1<sup>st</sup>, and then we'll be ready to go forward if</p>	

	VPD approves the purchase.	
<b>July Financial Report</b>	<p>Elaine:</p> <p>Admin – ahead \$50K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Other Income - \$14K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$5,400 copy machine</li> <li>▪ \$8,800 – SWM fees</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Payroll – ahead \$8K – Sue working part time</li> <li>○ Election costs – ahead \$12K – November election did not cost as much as a special election</li> <li>○ Professional fees – ahead \$14K – legal fee savings that were anticipated, but did not materialize for Tramp Harbor Dock</li> </ul> <p>Maintenance – ahead \$30K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revenue down \$20K</li> <li>● Payroll down \$21K – limited seasonal help and lower payroll taxes</li> <li>● Materials down \$10K – only need one topdressing due to field closures</li> <li>● Tools and equipment – down \$4K</li> <li>● Outside services – down \$4K – again, due to only one field topdressing</li> </ul> <p>Commons – ahead \$34K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revenue down \$15K</li> <li>● Offset by payroll down \$15K</li> <li>● The big savings is in the interlocal payment due to non-use – so far tracking at \$32K savings from \$75K. That is anticipated to grow more as every week passes that we don’t use the School District property.</li> </ul> <p>Programs – ahead \$23K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Payroll down \$10K – not much work for Marshall</li> <li>● All else assumes little to no recreation programming from March – October, so, like with Commons, it is anticipated that our savings will increase in this area</li> </ul> <p>Pool summer – ahead \$31K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revenue down \$50K</li> <li>● Offset by payroll down \$62K</li> </ul> <p>Pool winter – at budget</p> <p>Point Robinson – ahead \$13K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revenue ahead \$5K</li> <li>● Payroll down \$9K</li> </ul> <p>Fern Cove – ahead \$4,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revenue down \$5K</li> <li>● Payroll down \$6K</li> <li>● All else is odds and ends</li> </ul>	

	<p>Other – pretty inconsequential as RFA is not being used  CIP – over \$4,500 – extra fees to the architect for additional hours on the survey  Ending cash - \$776K  I recommend we not spend it, depending upon how our October levy dollars pan out and whether or not we’re going to be pro-rationed in 2021.  Karen: How do we continue to serve our community with recreational programming in a COVID environment? Because I’m not sure this is going to be over with soon.  Elaine: It’s a tough question. We determined in our recreation program plan that the need not being met is events, and we can’t do events.  Hans: I like the scavenger hunt idea because people can go explore the parks individually.  Elaine: We’re concerned about encouraging gatherings. More than 5 people can’t even gather in an environment even as large as a sport field. If it occurred over time that would be one way to manage the crowd situation.  Hans: There was one about 10 years targeted at a young audience that was over the course of the summer.  Elaine: Another programming issue is that Eric is primarily swamped with lodgings because housekeepers don’t want to work, so he’s doing a lot of housekeeping himself.  Abby: With the reserve money, we could hire somebody to take programming off of Eric’s plate.  Hans: We’re saving a lot on salary, but if we want to provide programs we might want to add more temporary staff, or get creative with members of the community and apply for a grant that wouldn’t require more staffing. For example, we could contract with several non-profits that could provide programming to the community, which ideally would be based on our parks and mission values. And, of course, COVID-safe.  Doug: Programming may be down, but many of our parks are busier than ever, so it’s not like we aren’t doing anything for the community.  Abby: I like the ideas of the scavenger hunt and about opening up the skate park with time slot reservations like the pool is doing. Could we do that other places?  Elaine: The soccer group is doing 5-person activities at VES, but that’s on a rental-basis, as are most of our facilities. Programs are things like Sailing Camp &amp; Ski School, which can’t happen during COVID. The Ober Park building can’t be used when staff is here due to the 5-person limit, and instructors don’t want to hold classes anyway.  Hans: Segue to the pool, did the reservation time-shift to Tuesday morning work out?  Bob: Barb was on this morning. The schedule still fills quickly, but it’s easier than the midnight reservation time. Everybody seems to be pretty happy about it, and the app is easy to use.  Elaine: I get lots of positive feedback. If anything, people want more hours, but we have limitations with lifeguards, as training certification can’t happen. Existing certifications that may be expiring have been extended, though.  Doug: When does the bubble go back up?  Elaine: Mid-October. The Seals are getting it permitted now.</p>	
<b>Board Votes</b>	Board Votes	<b>Motion to sell</b>

	<p>1) <b>Abby: Motion to sell Parcel 0722039117 on the open market.</b> <b>Karen: Second.</b></p> <p>2) <b>Abby: Motion to change the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Vashon Park District.</b> <b>Karen: Second.</b></p>	<p><b>Parcel 0722039117 on the open market. Pass 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion to change the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Vashon Park District Pass 5-0</b></p>
<p><b>Lisabeula Tideland Donation</b></p>	<p>Elaine: Quicksand is not on this property. Attorney input recommendations: (1) a title report, to make sure the donor has title to the property and to make sure we know if there are any encumbrances on the title we should be aware of, and (2) a phase 1 environmental assessment, to make sure we are not accepting contaminated property. It used to be a commercial property with a dock that may have had contaminated material deposited similar to Tramp Harbor Dock. I will find out what an environmental assessment costs. Assuming the title is clean and there are no encroachments or contamination issues, then closing the transaction would include preparing a deed and excise tax affidavit and getting those recorded. Attorney's fees estimated to be \$1000 - \$2000 to review the title report, prepare the deed and excise tax affidavit and to get those recorded.</p>	<p><b>Action Item</b></p>
<p><b>Lodging Cleaning Fees</b></p>	<p>Elaine: It has been about 5 years since cleaning fees were raised. Eric would like to propose raising the cleaning fees by \$25 for each vacation property to help offset the additional cleaning time due to COVID, which is upwards of an additional hour. Belle Baldwin and Keeper's Quarters A would increase to \$125, and Quarters B would increase to \$100. Eric has used the annual price comparison sheet to show what other like properties are charging for cleaning. A few are currently not renting due to the pandemic. This would be permanent. <b>Bob: I move to increase the cleaning fees by \$25 for each vacation rental.</b> <b>Karen: Second.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to increase cleaning fees by \$25 for each vacation rental.</b></p>
<p><b>BARC Lease</b></p>	<p>Elaine: For the Phase 3 grant application, we need to amend the lease with VISD again to allow the life of the project to be 20 years, so through 2044. The last amendment took it to 2041. <b>Abby: I move to accept the lease amendment to 2044.</b> <b>Doug: Second.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to accept the BARC lease amendment to 2044.</b></p>
<p><b>Anti-racism and Equity Team</b></p>	<p>Changes to policies – included, all the policies. Elaine: If you haven't had a chance to read through these, I think it would make the most sense to table this</p>	

until the next meeting.

Bob: I think that would be a good idea.

Elaine: Abby, Eric, and I met to discuss recreation programming relative to diversity. At the last meeting, I told you I was participating in a webinar entitled “Diversity and Inclusion in the Outdoors.” It was a panel of 6 from all kinds of diversity groups – African-American, Native American, Asian-American, Transgender, and Disabled. They explored the question of the difference between “all are welcome” to outdoor activities versus “this was created with you in mind.” For example: An African-American person getting their nose pierced and can’t find the appropriate nose pin due to having thicker cartilage. The main message was knowing the needs of whom you are trying to include.

Because we determined the community need in programming is to do events, this was our focus. We also looked at the City of Seattle’s Toolkit and determined that it was more comprehensive relative to our needs but took away the notion of “Starting with an Outcome.” Our outcome is inclusivity for all with a focus on minority perspectives. Key ideas:

- Outreach to Comunidad Latina de Vashon to ask the questions:
  - What we can do for better inclusion?
  - Should we translate Board meeting minutes?
  - How can we facilitate their input?
- Consider cultural events like Cinco de Mayo, but put that group’s interests first. Then all can attend in that context.
- Abby will:
  - Attend SURJ meetings (Stand Up for Racial Justice)
  - Reach out to Spring Hecht of VISD about a \$50k donation they received regarding diversity
- Outreach to any new BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People Of Color) organizations on Vashon
- Create an Indigenous and Asian-American speaker series topics that include a panel of minority perspectives with regard to the histories of our parks:
  - Point Robinson: Orcas
  - Jensen Point: Puyallup tribe
  - Others: Fisheries, sports, agriculture, heronry
- Concerts in the Park – always have at least one ethnic selection (we already do this)
- User Agreements – add non-discrimination clauses including accommodating disabilities
- Recreation programming – include disability special sessions
- BARC – A Transgender employee wants to hold LGBTQ skate night (no, inclusion goes both ways, so we can’t be exclusive, but can ask the LGBTQ community to sponsor or add ideas)

Abby: We should consider the LGBTQ night at BARC because we didn’t have to ask. They brought the idea to us.

Bob: Do we have policies that need to be reviewed with that in mind?

Elaine: I’m not sure, but I will look into that, and we can develop further policies.

Abby: We could even put up signs at our parks that indicate what the land originally was.

Elaine: We could ramp up the priority of our capital project to putting kiosks at all our parks that could

	<p>include exactly that kind of information, along with trail system maps and park rules. I think the cost was about 10K for the kiosks.</p> <p><b>Bob: I move to allocate 10K to the building of the park kiosks.</b></p> <p><b>Doug: Second.</b></p> <p>Hans: The only other thing I wanted to mention was that we don't want cost to be a barrier to inclusion to our programming.</p>	<p><b>Motion to allocate \$10k to building park kiosks.</b></p>
<p><b>Adjourn 8:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Bob: I move to adjourn.</b></p> <p><b>Karen: Second.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to adjourn Pass 5-0</b></p>

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford & Marshall Murray